

# 31 AMERICANS REPORTED LOST IN TORPEDOING OF U. S. OIL SHIP; ARMY GENERAL STAFF PREPARING PLANS TO SEND TROOPS TO FRONT; FRENCH GAIN HALF MILE ON 25-MILE FRONT, BENDING SIEGFRIED LINE

## SIEGFRIED LINE BENT HALF MILE BY FRENCH ALONG 25-MILE FRONT

Nivelle Seizes Terrain Fronting Laon and Holds Gains Against Repeated Counter Thrusts.

(By International News Service.)  
London, April 30.—In a new terrific blow against the center of the Siegfried line, the French today burst into the German positions on a twenty-five-mile front and penetrated to a depth ranging from one-half to two-thirds of a mile, holding those gains against all counter thrusts.  
The terrain that was gained fronts Laon, chief strategic objective of Gen. Nivelle's offensive on the Aisne and in the Champagne.  
The French stormed forward on both sides of Mont Carnillet.  
**TAKE FORTIFIED TRENCHES.**  
To the west of this hill, they wrested from the Crown Prince's forces a series of fortified trenches stretching as far south of the village of Reims as Mont Carnillet.  
They dislodged the Germans from part of the northern slope, northeast of Mont Haut, as far as the approaches to Moronvilliers-Haury road. Immediately after the attack the big guns of both sides began to roar again.  
On the Anglo-German front Teuton counter-attacks between Monchy Le Preux and the Scarpe River were stifled in the British barrage fire. The lines on this front remained unaltered at the end of the day.

**Raid Important Works.**  
French aviators extensively raided important works behind the German lines, penetrating as far as Colmar, Habheim and Prescott, a suburb of the fortress of Metz.

In aerial battles yesterday, the British bagged ten German machines and drove ten others down in a damaged condition. Fifteen British machines did not return. Berlin's official night bulletin tells of a violent artillery battle on the Aisne and in the Champagne.

Berlin officially announced that the British in Saturday's initial onslaught lost 6,000 in dead and 1,000 in prisoners; that the village of Oppy remained in German hands, and that the German machine gunners destroyed ten "tanks." The entire loss of eleven airplanes on Saturday and twenty-three yesterday, the statement added.

Today's British headquarters' statement reported only operations between Monchy-le-Preux and the Scarpe, where the British, taking some prisoners, improved their lines, and a successful raid north of Ypres, nearly fifty miles above the front of the present drive. Here ten prisoners and a machine gun were won.

The French day report told of heavy gun duels all along the Franco-German front and of the repulse of Teuton counter attacks. It reported German air raids on five French fortresses—Dunkirk, Nancy, Belfort, Chalons and Epervier. In the two last named places several civilians fell victims to the bombing attacks.

### Pimlico Track Burning; Racing Stables Destroyed

Baltimore, May 1 (Tuesday).—Fire, apparently of incendiary origin, broke out at 1 o'clock this morning at Pimlico race track, where the spring meeting was to open today.  
The stables of Tim Donahue, H. W. Sage and G. S. Furie were destroyed. At least eight horses were burned to death and at 1:30 o'clock this morning it looked like the rest of the stables and plant would be saved by wind, but they were still endangered.

### WASHINGTON PRINCESS ESCAPES FIRE DANGER

Princess Hohenzollern-Schillingsfurst's Motor Car Demolished by Flames.  
Princess Hohenzollern-Schillingsfurst, wife of Prince Alfred Hohenzollern-Schillingsfurst, former secretary of the Austro-Hungarian Embassy here, who was formerly Miss Catherine A. Britten, daughter of Alex. Britten, 181 Q street northwest, narrowly escaped serious injury by fire yesterday afternoon.  
The princess was operating her electric automobile along the Chain Bridge road near St. Phillips Hill bound towards the city when the wires in the vehicle became crossed and started a fire.  
The car was totally destroyed by the flames.  
The princess was speeding along the roadway when she discovered that the floor of the car was becoming uncomfortably warm. Catching the odor of burning rubber she stopped the machine. Investigation showed that a blaze was in progress. The princess and her friends, who had been visiting at the National Service School at Conduit road, leaped from the machine. The party watched the flames demolish the vehicle.  
The princess is in the city visiting her father. Her husband is in New York.

### MAY END MEATLESS DAYS.

London, April 30.—It is better to let the people of Great Britain eat all the meat they want than to allow the supply of breadstuffs to be exhausted. Capt. Charles Bathurst said so in substance in the house of commons today, speaking for the government. He hinted the rule creating one meatless day a week may be rescinded.

### Births, Marriages and Deaths.

The Washington Herald is printing daily notices of births, marriages, and deaths among the people of Washington.  
These notices appear today on page 10.

## Plans to Send U.S. Troops Abroad at Once Being Worked Out By Army General Staff; Six Red Cross Units Sail Within 20 Days

### SOLDIERS SOON TO JOIN ALLIES

Inexperienced Guardsmen Go First—May Be on Firing Line Within Month.

The appeal of military members of the French mission in the United States resulted late yesterday in the army general staff receiving orders to work out plans for the immediate sending of an American army to the west front.  
The plans, which are only tentative, must be passed upon by President Wilson before they are put into operation.  
This was learned from high officials of the War Department.  
That an American force, whose size is as yet undetermined, will be on the fighting line within thirty days, seemed assured last night. In all probability the men sent first will be part of the National Guard of the States, whose organization is complete.

### German Aviators Outclassed, Says Maj. Rees, British Envoy

Teutons on the Defensive in the Air as Well as on Land, Head of the Royal Flying Corps Avers.

(By the International News Service.)  
The "eyes of the German army" have been closed. Teutonic aviators can no longer act as range finders for their artillery. The Germans are on the defensive in the air as well as on land. Victory for the entire allies on the west front is certain.

Major W. H. B. Rees, of the British Royal Flying Corps, one of the greatest aviation heroes of the war, thus summed up yesterday the aerial situation in France. To a group of Washington newspapermen, Major Rees stated that the Germans have acknowledged their inability to regain the offensive.

"Then there are the Zeppelins; they are failures," he continued. "Zeppelins are no longer of any military use whatsoever except in entirely unprotected regions—of which there are mighty few in Great Britain and France."

Zeppelins are good only for attacks against the civil population, he said. Encouragement of the plans of the Council of National Defense to send several units of American aviators to France immediately was given by Major Rees.

**Would Be Welcomed.**  
"American aviators would be welcomed," he said, "hardly think the machines now in use in the United States would be of service, because they are not fitted for our kind of warfare. However, the aviators may soon be equipped with the French or British type of machines, as we have offered this government the privilege of using all our latest patents. These patents are the result of the most skillful work of the leading aviation specialists of the world."

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### Balfour Pays Tribute To American Red Cross

Rt. Hon. Arthur Balfour yesterday paid the following tribute to the American Red Cross in a message sent to Red Cross headquarters:  
"It needs no words from me to testify that the American Red Cross has already won its spurs by countless works of mercy on the battlefields of many countries.  
"By generosity and personal service it has helped the allies in many-fold ways during the past thirty months. In the name of wounded in the ranks of the united allies I know I may thank this organization for the untold benefits received, and I feel sure that under the late developed circumstances its labors of love and pity will only increase and multiply until this war is ended."

### U. S. WILL GRANT BELGIUM A LOAN

Tiny Nation May Be Advanced \$150,000,000 Despite Her Lack of Security.

Baron E. De Cartier, Belgian Minister at Washington, yesterday held a long conference with Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo at which it was determined that the stricken Belgian people shall participate in the big loans being given by the United States to her European allies, despite the fact that Belgium can give practically no security for the money.

Secretary McAdoo declared last night that Belgium's poverty is not being taken into account at all arrangements for the advance of money being made in order to strengthen the arms of the Belgians, whether or not the American treasury has to wait for generations for repayment of the loan.

Rene Vivian, former premier of France and head of the French mission here, also held a conference with Secretary McAdoo yesterday at which it was determined that Belgium shall participate in the big loans being given by the United States to her European allies, despite the fact that Belgium can give practically no security for the money.

While no definite arrangement has yet been perfected, it is expected that Belgium will receive a loan of at least \$150,000,000.

The French and Italian diplomats showed Mr. McAdoo what the needs of their nations are and impressed upon him the necessity for haste in coming to the relief of these nations.

The Federal Reserve Board yesterday laid before Secretary McAdoo a plan for the issuance of a series of short-term Treasury certificates of indebtedness, one block of from \$150,000,000 to \$200,000,000 every two weeks until the proceeds of the war bond issue are in hand about July 1.

Secretary McAdoo is understood to regard this plan favorably, as it will provide ready money and also will place in the hands of bankers securities with which they can pay for the war bonds when they are ready for issuance.

### FRENCH TOUR PLANS READY

Mission Leaves Thursday for West, Going First Directly to Chicago.

The French Commission will leave Washington next Thursday for the West, going directly to Chicago. From Chicago, the commission will go to Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield, Ill. At Springfield the commission will see Lincoln's tomb.

Returning East the commission will visit Philadelphia, New York and Boston.

The State Department last night announced that the commission's tour would cover the briefest possible time, in order that its members may return to Washington at an early date to take up the important work before it.

"Many invitations were extended from all parts of the country, and the commission expressed a desire to accept many of them," the State Department announced. "But because of the limited time at their disposal and the large amount of work to be done in Washington, it was necessary to confine their absence from Washington to the briefest possible time, and to arrange their schedule so that invitations could be accepted which were the most practicable."

### BASE HOSPITALS READY TO LEAVE

First Groups Will Start for France in Ten Days—To Be Placed Near Front.

The American Red Cross will furnish the first army organization which will be sent to European battlefields. At the request of the British commission, six base hospitals organized by the Red Cross for service for the medical department of the United States army have been ordered to active duty abroad. It is understood they will serve in France.

The hospital units will be sent as quickly as they can be mustered into the United States service and their military equipment can be issued to them. The first units are expected to leave the United States within ten days and the last within twenty days.

The base hospitals to go will be the second, fourth, fifth, tenth, twelfth and twenty-first. They will take charge of hospitals already in operation. They will not wait for equipment other than some special surgical instruments.

### British Mission Will Remain 10 Days More Than Planned

### WILSON SEEKS SHIP CONTROL

Administration Will Push Its Plans to Provide Tonnage for Carrying Supplies.

American cargo ships must be made one of the greatest factors in winning the war.

President Wilson and his advisers last night reached this conclusion after preliminary conferences with naval experts of the British and French missions.

Administration leaders received word from the White House that Congress must act and act quickly to give the President absolute control of American shipping, in order to provide tonnage sorely needed to carry supplies of all kinds.

Yesterday's conferences on the shipping difficulties, developed problems of far more serious moment than those which hitherto have confronted government heads.

The status of shipbuilding in the shipyards of Great Britain, France, Japan and other allies of the nation made it clear that upon the United States rests the responsibility for supplying augmented tonnage upon a vast scale to combat Germany's submarine menace.

American shipping experts, in reports of the capacity of shipyards in the United States, declared yesterday that all of the principal plants of the nation must operate their yards on a double shift basis to meet the government's needs.

Shipbuilders already have assured national defense chiefs that they will adopt the most heroic methods to meet the government's contracts.

Following the informal meetings between the shipping authorities of the United States, Great Britain and France, it was practically certain that every ounce of strength that the shipping industry of the nation can muster will be used to develop the merchant marine program.

### \$26,000,000 RAISE GRANTED MINERS

45,000 in Central Pennsylvania District Will Benefit.  
(By the International News Service.)  
Philadelphia, April 30.—Wage increases aggregating more than \$26,000,000 annually were granted tonight by the bituminous mine operators of Central Pennsylvania to the 45,000 miners in their district at a conference in the Bellevue-Straford.

The agreement was reached late today after a joint conference of miners and operators starting two weeks ago. The grant was made after the miners, who originally demanded a flat 23.3 per cent increase for all classes of labor, accepted compromises offered by the operators.

The only demand made by the miners and not granted in whole or in part was that relating to car pushing, which the miners wanted to abolish. This was dropped during the conference.

## 31 AMERICANS DIE WHEN "SUB" SINKS U. S. OIL STEAMER

### Commander of Naval Guard and 11 Members of Naval Crew Aboard Vacuum Believed Lost.

New York, April 30.—Thirty-one American lives are believed to have been lost when the armed American oil-carrying steamship Vacuum was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine off the north coast of Ireland last Saturday while en route from a British to an American port.

Newspaper dispatches from London and cables advices to the ship's owners, the Vacuum Oil Company of New York, were somewhat conflicting, but late tonight it seemed established beyond doubt that the toll of life included:

### PROBABLE TOLL OF LIFE.

The Vacuum's skipper, Capt. S. S. Harris, of New York; Twenty members of his crew.  
The commander of the United States naval guard aboard the Vacuum, Lieut. Clarence Crase Thomas, a Californian.  
Eleven members of his naval crew.

The Vacuum had two lifeboats to which those aboard took while the vessel was sinking. Boat No. 1 contained those believed drowned. Boat No. 2 has been landed. It contained: The Vacuum's chief officer, thirteen members of the ship's crew and four naval gunners.

**Eight Americans Saved.**  
Altogether eight American lives are known to be saved.  
Up to late last night the Washington State Department had not received official word of the Vacuum's sinking. Pending receipt of definite data, no statement was made and all comment was refused.

The loss of the American bluejackets marks the first American "casualty list" in the war with Germany. The gun crew's commander, Lieut. Thomas, is the first American officer to be killed in the discharge of his duty as armed guardian of a peaceful American merchantman.

The Vacuum was sent to the bottom just nine days after another American steamship, the Mongolia, on the last lap of her voyage to a British port, had drawn the first blood in the war with Germany. One of the Mongolia's naval gunners, operated by American bluejackets, on April 19 sank a German submarine as it was about to attack the merchantman.

**Left England Thursday.**  
The Vacuum left a British port for her return trip to America last Thursday, a week after the Mongolia's exploit. She was in the hands of the British navy, under the command of Lieut. Harris, was thirty-five years old, and had a crew of thirty-five. The naval crew, including Lieut. Thomas, is believed to have numbered fifteen. Of the ship's crew, fifteen were Americans, and of these, so far only four are accounted for as safe in London advices.

Capt. Harris hailed from Lemport, N. H. It was only reluctantly and under protest that he assumed charge of the Vacuum. He left New York March 20 for Birkenhead, England, his friends in shipping circles here said today.

The Vacuum's regular skipper, Capt. Walker McKay, now believed to be in the hands of the British navy, was to take command of the ship. McKay had been taken the Vacuum back and forth through the U-boat-infested waters, taking large cargoes of barrel oil to England.

The Vacuum displaced 2,350 tons gross. Her length was 247 feet, with a 45-foot beam. She was owned by the Vacuum Oil Company, a California concern. The

### STOCK EXCHANGE SAVED FROM TEUTON BOMBERS

Detectives Arrest Two Germans on Way to Wall Street.  
(By the International News Service.)  
New York, April 30.—After three weeks of detective work by the members of Captain Tunney's bomb squad, during which time the quarry was shadowed day and night, two Germans were arrested tonight while on their way to blow up the Stock Exchange with a high explosive bomb. The missile was manufactured in the chemical laboratory of Roosevelt Hospital.

The men arrested are Wolf E. Hirsch, 28, a native of Kiel, Germany, employed as an assistant to the Harriman Research Laboratory at the hospital, and George Meiering, 42, a native of Regensburg, Germany, employed as a general helper in the hospital kitchen. The men came to this country in July, 1914, just before the outbreak of the European war.

**WAR CHECK TO MRS. M'ADOO.**  
Treasury Printers Send \$1,000 to President's Daughter for Red Cross.  
Mrs. William Gibbs McAdoo, daughter of President Wilson and wife of the secretary of the Treasury, as representative of the Red Cross, will receive a certified check for \$1,000 this morning as a testimonial of the patriotism of the Plate Printers' Union No. 2, which is made up of the several thousand men employed in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, a branch of the Treasury. The check will be sent by Mrs. McAdoo to the American Red Cross Society.

**ALLIES BOMBARD ZEEBRUGGE.**  
Amsterdam, April 30.—Allied airmen bombarded Zeebrugge, the German naval base in Belgium, on Sunday, says a dispatch to this city today. The aviators dropped many projectiles despite violent fire against them from German high-angle guns. It is learned that during the preceding air attack two harbor walls at Zeebrugge were smashed by bombs.

**The Finest Men's Furnishings.**  
Edward E. Harding  
1345 Pennsylvania Ave., N. W.  
"Watch the Windows"